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THTR 340.01: Costume Design I

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COSTUME DESIGN I

THTR 340 Spring 2017 3 credits

Mon/Wed in Partv 190 from 11:00 to 12:20

Instructor: Alessia Carpoca

Office Hours: by appointment or Tue-Thur 9:00-10:30 PARTV 198

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Welcome to Costume design. In this course you will practice and learn the graphic art skills used in costume design for the Theatre and for Film. You will also consider and apply basic design ideas and rules about composition, shape, volume, light, texture, movement, etc.

Course Description:

A lecture and projects course to develop principles in costume design for the stage. The emphasis on the design process will include interpretation, character development, and rendering techniques.

Course Objectives: By the end of the semester you should be able to demonstrate:

1. The ability to analyze a dramatic character, and from that analysis create a visual image for that character in terms of costume.
2. The ability to communicate the costume design ideas through drawing and painting (renderings);
3. The ability to recognize and apply various styles of theatrical design to your own work;
4. The ability to create an accurate, detailed and complete scene charts and costume plots for plays;
5. A fundamental, working knowledge of costume fabrics and materials for swatching costume designs.

About "artistic ability"

The "point" of the skills that you learn in this class is to be able to "communicate ideas." If you are a person who hasn't done a lot of drawing, or painting then the exercises may seem difficult to you. Just do them and try to do not get frustrated. You didn't learn to write or speak without practice, either.

Everyone has imagination and ideas. Without communication skills, your imagination and ideas remain locked up in your head. Nobody can teach you how to have ideas. This class will teach you a few techniques for communicating the ideas that you have.

Grading:

The object of this course is to improve your skills. If you do all the assignments, your skills will improve.

Assignments are due on the date given on the course outline. They will be presented to the class. If you skip the class because you aren't finished with the assignments you will just be sure you'll learn nothing at all for that day. Therefore, bring your work in progress to the class even if you aren't finished.

Here is what I will look for when grading, in order of priority:

- 1) did you complete the entire assignment?
- 2) did your work show signs of improvement from start to finish?
- 3) did you follow instructions as well as you could?
- 4) did you do more than was assigned?
- 5) How "good" is your work compared to:
your other work in class
others' work in this class

Design Project#1:

Design costumes for "The Magic Flute" by W.A.Mozart. This is a fantasy opera meaning that it does not have a specific time period or location. You may change the "period," the locale, lines in the text, and any other aspect of the opera that suits your fancy, but you must solve the "design problems" inherent to the show. **The final presentation must include research, line drawings and renderings** for Tamino, Pamina, Papageno, the Queen of the Night, Sarastro, Monostatos.

Design Project #2:

Design costumes for “The Importance of Being Earnest” by Oscar Wilde. This is a significant play that you are likely to encounter as a professional designer. Anyone who reviews your portfolio can be expected to have some acquaintance with this play. This is both a bonus (that person can have some opinion about your design) and a challenge (that person will have seen numerous designs for the show already) You **MUST** retain the flavor and detail of the period that the author intended - no updates or other "change of date" concepts. **The final presentation must include a written analysis of the play and it's characters. Costume research of the time period selected . Scene chart and costume plot. Complete set of costume renderings and line drawings.** You will design 1 costume for each character of Act 3.

Design Project #3:

Design costumes for “Danny and the Deep Blue Sea” by John P. Shanley. This is a modern play and as such it present a completely different challenge from a period piece. You **MUST** keep it modern but you may change location and time, as long as it will be staged from 1980s to 2010. While this is a much smaller assignment compared to design project 2 I will need you to focus on providing a clear and organized design package that could be turned in the shop as if the show will go into production for a “real” theatre. **The final presentation must include a written analysis of the play and it's characters. Costume research of the time period selected . Scene chart and costume plot. Complete set of costume renderings and line drawings.**

Drawing/Design Assignments:

These design assignments are intended to challenge your design skills through solving specific design issues with a limited amount of tools (for example for one assignment you will use only 1 element of design) They are also intended as **QUICK** drawing project. You are not supposed to focus on that for long hours. Do them quickly like if you are asked to place a new costume on stage by tonight. Please use no more then 2/3 consecutive hours. Sit down, think of what you would like to do, draw then **accept that they will not be perfect....** There will be a total of 5 assignments worth 100 total points.

Grade Weight:

Design 1	Research, Line Drawings and Renderings	March 13	300
Design 2	Analysis of the play, costume research, scene chart and costume plot renderings.	April 17	300
Design 3	Analysis of the play, costume research, scene chart and costume plot renderings.	Finals: May 9 10:10-12:00	300
Assignments	In Your Closet	Jan 30	20
	Blown Out of Proportions	Feb 1	20
	Clown-o-Rama	Feb 13	20
	Cup cakes and Popcorn	March 15	20
	Then and Now	April 10	20

Required Texts:

Character Costume Figure Drawing by Tan Huaixiang

”The Magic Flute” by W.A.Mozart

“The Importance of Being Earnest” by Oscar Wilde

“Danny and the Deep Blue Sea” by John P. Shanley

About books: The Internet is not a substitute for books. As a designer, you will need an extensive library that you will build for your entire career. Start buying books now. You require Art Books, Art History Books, History surveys, and Theatre History and Design Textbooks. **This class has a Moodle supplement:** all lectures and research materials could be found in it!!!

Class Policies:

1. Good attendance is a good idea . Absences must be limited to reasons of illness or serious emergency and must be excused by the instructor. **Your grade will drop 30 points after 3 unexcused absences.** Three tardies will equal one absence.
2. Your classmates and your teachers cannot read your mind. It is your right and responsibility to share your ideas, questions and needs with your colleagues in the classroom.

The University of Montana assures equal access to instruction through collaboration between students with disabilities, instructors, and Disability Services for Students (DSS). If you think you may have a disability adversely affecting your academic performance, and you have not already registered with DSS, please contact DSS in Lommasson 154. I will work with you and DSS to provide an appropriate accommodation.

Academic Misconduct and the Student Conduct Code

All students must practice academic honesty. Academic misconduct is subject to an academic penalty by the course instructor and/or disciplinary sanction by the University. All students need to be familiar with the Student Conduct Code. The Code is available for review online at http://life.umt.edu/vpsa/student_conduct.php.

All Theatre & Dance students must have an in-depth knowledge of the practices and procedures outlined in the School of Theatre & Dance *Student Handbook*. The *Handbook* is available online at <http://www.umt.edu/umarts/theatredance/About/handbook.php>.

There is inherent risk involved in many Theatre & Dance classes as they are very physical in nature. Please proceed through class, shop time, or rehearsal with caution. Always be mindful of your personal safety and the safety of others. Students participating in class/shop/rehearsal/performance do so at their own risk. Due to safety considerations, at **no** point during a student's time spent in class or serving on a production (in any capacity) should non-enrolled persons be guests of that student **without my consent**. Presence of such unauthorized persons in a class, shop, or any backstage/off-stage area will negatively affect a student's grade.

Materials:

- Pencils B, 2B (lead not charcoal)
- Sharpener
- Eraser
- 12" straight edge ruler
- Painting palette and Cup/holder for water
- Brushes I suggest Loew-Cornell or Princeton Art or Connoisseur Size 8, 4 and 1, for now.... Buy Watercolor Brushes
- Portfolio in which to keep your work for Portfolio presentation look into ITOYA ART 9x16 or 11x14 (Bookstore)
- Folders or binders. You'll turn in a research binder for project #2 and #3.
- Painting medium I would like if you use watercolors either cakes or tubes(will discuss in class)
either KOI or Windsor/Newton both available at the bookstore 12 KOI or 18 KOI
12 W/N or 14 W/N or Acrylics
- Will also be good to own some Pastel pencils for details a set of 12 or 24 if you can afford them (Derwent 12)
- Paper for watercolor Arches or better, 90 lb or better Watercolor PROART 9x12 (will discuss in class)
for sketching anything will do....
- cheap tracing paper or flimsy paper ("onionskin") can be usefull but not required...

You will be required to use a different medium for each project and at least 1 has to be a wet medium... meaning you need to paint...

Course Schedule:

Please note that this may change due to a variety of circumstances, large scale changes will result in the issue of a new schedule, minor alterations will be handled in class.

Date	Topic	Assignment / Activity	% points
Jan 23	<i>Lecture 1: Costume Shop.</i> Trip to the bookstore	In Your Closet assignment due Jan 30	
Jan 25	<i>Lecture 2: Human Anatomy</i>	Blown out of Proportion assignment due Feb 1	
Jan 30	<i>Lecture 3: Text Analysis.</i> Due Assignment 1: In Your Closet	Read play 1 and start the text analysis due Feb 6	20
Feb 1	<i>Lecture 4: Elements & principles of Design.</i> Period style details and costume design. Due Assignment 2: Blown out of Proportion	Clown-o-Rama assignment due Feb 13	20
Feb 6	Play 1 Discussion and analysis of the play <i>Lecture 5: Costume Shapes and Styles.</i>	Start research on play 1 due Feb 8	
Feb 8	continuing with <i>Lecture 5: Costume Shapes and Styles.</i> Play 1 research, text & character analysis	Start sketches for Play 1	
Feb 13	<i>Lecture 6: Ease & Folds.</i> Sketching. Due Assignment 3: Clown-o-Rama	Finish Sketches Play 1	20
Feb 15	Due: Play 1 Sketches. Critique	revise sketches	
Feb 20	NO CLASS	revise sketches	

Feb 22	Lecture 7: Color and Costume Design Play 1 Revised sketches	Cup cakes and Popcorn assignment due Oct 15 Clean up sketches or transfer them to better paper	
Feb 27	Demonstration: Color mediums and techniques		
Mar 1	Work day painting the renderings		
Mar 6	NO CLASS USITT	Read play 2 and start research	
Mar 8	Research field trip to the Mansfield library (USITT) Meet Tammy in the Lobby		
Mar 13	Play 1 everything is due	Work on the Text and character analysis play 2 due Oct 22	300
Mar 15	Play 2 discuss. Demonstration: Costume Chart Due Assignment 4: Cup cakes and Popcorn	Work on Assignment 5 Then and Now due Oct 27	20
Mar 20	NO CLASS		
Mar 22	NO CLASS	Work on sketches for play 2	
Mar 27	Due: text, character analysis and costume chart Play 2.	Research for Play 2 due on Oct 27	
Mar 29	Due: Play 2 research. Present and discuss in class.	Work on sketches for play 2	
Apr 3	Play 2 sketches	Finish sketches	
Apr 5	Demonstration: Color mediums and techniques	Work on renderings	
Apr 10	Lecture 8: Textiles. Fabric types (weight, behavior etc...) Fantasy fabric, classic fabric, checks, tartan etc.... <u>Class observation exercise in the light shop or theatre</u> Due Assignment 5 Then and Now	Work on renderings	20
Apr 12	Work on renderings		
Apr 17	Play 2 everything is due	Read Play 3. Start your research and character analysis to be presented in class on April 19	300
Apr 19	Play 3 Discuss Research and text analysis		
Apr 24	Preliminary line drawings		
Apr 26	Workshop on mix media for renderings		
May 1	Revised Line Drawings		
May 3	Work on renderings		
May 9	Final presentation everything done for this class is due and will be shown like an exhibit.	10:10-12:00 PARTV 190	300